

Commissioner Jane Henney
FDA Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

7763 '00 MAY 24 P2:19

RE: Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1 and
RE: Docket No. 99N-4282

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I am writing to express my great concern about the lack of labeling on genetically engineered food. My family and many of my friends consider this to be an essential Right to Know issue. We believe that genetically engineered foods can detrimentally affect the health of many people and we do not want to eat GE foods or products containing GE foods. We insist on our right to know what we are eating, and this requires mandatory labeling. We also feel strongly that not nearly enough testing has been done regarding GE foods and their effects on human and environmental health. I am writing to ask that you require the labeling and pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods.

On March 21, 2000, the Center for Food Safety spearheaded an unprecedented coalition of scientific, consumer, environmental and farm organizations in the filing of a legal petition with the FDA demanding the development of a thorough pre-market and environmental testing regime for genetically engineered foods and mandatory labeling of such foods. The effort has created an official rulemaking docket (#00P-1211/CP1) that allows the public to write in and support the action.

In 1992, the FDA received thousands of comments from the public demanding mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, yet the agency refused to act. More recently, a Time Magazine poll showed that 81% of American consumers believe genetically engineered foods should be labeled. We have an absolute right to know what is in the food that we are purchasing, as well as how it was produced.

I am deeply concerned that the government does not require mandatory pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods. Without such requirements, we will have no way to know if new toxins or allergens are being introduced, or if levels of existing toxins in these new, novel foods are increased. Additionally, the effect of using of antibiotic resistant genes in the genetic engineering process remains unclear, and may pose a health risk by transferring such resistance to consumers.

Further, it is my understanding that the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act mandates that genetically engineered foods be subject to premarket safety testing and labeling. I support the Center for Food Safety and other organizations that have filed suit against the FDA to require the fulfillment of these legal obligations. Please take action to ensure that I have the ability to make an educated choice about the foods that I eat.

Sincerely,

Erin R. Waefer

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